slow to admit the value of any novelty,—and then say which order of men is the best, which is most likely to promote the well-being of mankind, which most likely to add to the greatness of the age, which most likely to bring glory and renown to the country that gave them birth. But supposing, for a moment, that the line of argument adopted by the so-called "practical" men is correct, are they prepared to assert, that from the class of workmen alone must be drawn our future architects and engineers? We think not: even now such is not the case. There are some men undoubtedly whose native genius has surmounted all disadvantages of birth and education, and sufficed to place them in a position of great and deserved eminence; but the number of these is infinitesimally small, and not at all calculated to meet the present demand. They are exceptions to the general rule, and would exist—do in fact in other professions—under any combination of circumstances that could be devised. It is for the many, and not for the few, that we must legislate. Now, without desiring to alter existing arrangements as to pupillage,—simply wishing to insure that the young men when out of it shall possess a certain amount of ability and qualifications fitting them to commence practice, and being fully aware that even this will not make engineers and architects without subsequent experience, I still think that the organization of a corporate body, by law qualified to grant diplomas, and to prevent any one following these occupations without a diploma, is nothing more than the spirit of the times demands, and is absolutely essential, if architects and engineers wish to retain their present position. TEMS.

ACTION TO RECOVER DRAUGHTSMEN'S CHARGES.

In the Court of Common Pleas, on 28th ultimo, an action was brought by Mr. Maberley, architect and surveyor, against Messrs. Shepherd and Botton, patentees of the sub-marine telegraph, for the recovery of 162*l.* for eight sets of drawings of the plans of the telegraph. The defendants pleaded payment of 2*l.* 10*s.*; lodging of 47*l.* 10*s.* into court; and as to the residue, not indebted.

Plaintiff stated that he was occupied fifty days in making the drawings. For this service he charged two guineas a-day for himself, and one guinea for an assistant, besides 10*l.* for the use of his rooms, and coffee and refreshments supplied to Mr. Shepherd. He had at first charged only 76*l.*; but that sum not being paid, he was advised that he could recover more, and therefore brought his action for 162*l.*

This, the Lord Chief Justice said, was not according to the usual mode of business, and was contrary to common sense.

The plaintiff stated that he had thus prepared twenty-eight drawings and four tracings, the defendant Shepherd assisting him, and one of his witnesses said these drawings were worth two guineas each, another that they were worth three guineas, and the tracings, 35*s.* He had paid his assistant 10*s.* a-day.—This was the plaintiff's case.

The defendant, Mr. Shepherd, stated (as reported in the *Times*) that, wanting assistance in copying the draughts for his patent, 14 of set No. 1 of which he had finished but not coloured, and one of set No. 2 of which he had partly finished, he went to the plaintiff, who said he was disgusted with his profession of an architect and surveyor, as there was nothing to be done in it, and who was then employed in making drawings on wood for the engravers. The plaintiff said he knew nothing about mechanical drawings, and the defendant Shepherd showed him how to do them, and to colour the fourteen which he had himself finished. The defendant afterwards assisted him in doing the remainder, and, according to the defendant, only twelve of these drawings were done for him and two tracings. No stipulated price was to be paid, but the defendant promised to use his influence in getting the plaintiff some employment if the patent succeeded. The coffee charged for was when plaintiff asked him to take a cup of coffee as they were at work; and the room of plaintiff smoked so that no one could live in it until he had got a workman to remove the chimney-pot from his neighbour's chimney and put it on his own. The defendant swore positively that the plaintiff only did twelve of these drawings and two tracings. The plaintiff had first asked if 46*l.* would be too much to charge. He then sent him a bill for 76*l.* which not being paid, he put the matter into the hands of his attorney, who made a demand for 86*l.*, and that not being paid, brought his action for 162*l.*

The plaintiff was then recalled by his Lordship, and would not swear that he had done more than three drawings No. 1, and seven or eight No. 2. Afterwards he said positively he and his clerk had done seven of each.

The evidence having been summed up, the jury retired for an hour, and then gave a verdict for the defendant.

NORMAN PARAPETS.

In publications relating to architecture, frequent mention is made of Norman parapets. The paper on "Round Churches," in a late number of THE BUILDER, assumes that, originally, a parapet crowned the walls of St. Sepulchre's, Northampton. In the buildings of modern times called "Norman," wherein an attempt to carry out the style in every other particular is very manifest, a parapet constantly appears; and Rickman seems to have had doubts as to what the Norman battlement really was, but supposed it to have been a "plain parapet."

Believing, therefore, that there must be a prevalent misconception as to the existence of this feature in early buildings, I may perhaps be permitted to remark, that originally in not one of our Norman cathedrals did a parapet exist. Generally, of course, the point may be decided by the slant of the weather-mould against the tower; but there is another proof, namely, that the door from the winding-stair, which would have led to the parapet, had there been one, is in every instance an after-piercing of the masonry, and not original. There was always a door from the stair to the interior of the roof; but to the exterior, none.

It must now be too generally known to need remark, that in all the ecclesiastical structures of France and Germany, coeval with our Norman, we see an eaves-course or corbel-table merely,—no parapet. In Norman carvings, too, representing buildings, there is only an eaves-course seen; and the like may be said of edifices portrayed in the tapestry and drawings of that age.

I should be inclined to suppose that the use of a parapet in English churches could not have been anterior to the year 1200, for the choir of Canterbury had none, nor had the earliest portion of Wells Cathedral—two buildings begun when almost every trace of Norman had passed away, and another style had been nearly established.

A word or two may be added respecting Norman roofs, for it is evidently thought by some, that these, upon towers and turrets, were occasionally flat. I do not believe even in castellated buildings, where a parapet was of course needed for military purposes, that the flat roof was ever used, but that it was universally high pitched. The manner of screening the roof behind the walls may still be seen in the keep of Richmond Castle, in Yorkshire. G. E. LAING.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Rochester.—The wardens of the old bridge some time since determined upon erecting a new fabric very near the latter, but higher up the stream. It will be chiefly formed of iron work from a design by Sir W. Cubitt, who has been appointed engineer. It will consist of three lofty arches. The centre, 50 feet span, will open at the crown, similar to the London dock bridges, so as to allow vessels of large burden to pass without striking masts. The contractors are Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., who are now employed on the foundations by sinking iron cylinders upon Potts's principle. The approaches are to be formed on a series of brick arches, which are already partly covered with Seyssel asphalte.

Southampton.—The proposed site of the new gaol having been made ground, of however long standing, an examination of it has been made, in course of which there were discovered a number of subterranean hollows, resembling the dry wells in which the Romans and their successors kept their stores of grain in fortified places.

Worcester.—A commotion has been created here among the rate-payers by a bill of nearly 2,000*l.* for plans, sections, work, and labour done, which Mr. E. L. Williams, the surveyor under the Local Board of Health, has sent in to the Town Council. Mr. Williams had accepted the office subject to such salary as the council might think fit, but owing to an agitation against sanitary measures got up by the owners of small tenements and others, the salary offered to him, it is said, was so obviously inadequate, that, after many months had been spent in useless negotiation, Mr. Williams has at length made his professional charges, and put the whole business in litigation.

Bath.—A map of the borough, by Mr. Cotterell, surveyor, with levels, boundaries of parishes and properties, gardens, houses, streets, wards, &c., is about to be published by Mr. Hayward, of the Abbey-churchyard.

Conway.—There is about to be erected, at a place called the Island, an extensive quay for the shipment of goods direct from the railway up the river to Llanrwst. The steam-tug lighters used will bring, as returned freights, slates, slabs, and minerals, from the mines and quarries around Llanrwst, Penmachno, Dolwyddelen, &c. The contract for the quay has been taken by Messrs. Cropper and Bell.

Birmingham.—A plan for establishing a consumption Hospital here has been started by a number of the clergy and others in the borough.——The Peel statue is being proceeded with. A small model of the statue has been completed by Mr. Peter Hollins, submitted to the committee, and approved of. The statesman is represented as in the act of speaking in his customary attitude when animated. The features are those of Sir Robert in the prime of life. The modern costume is preserved, or rather indicated, a cloak being thrown over the left shoulder, and looped up in slight folds over the right arm. The large model is immediately to be proceeded with, and will be submitted to the inspection of the subscribers. The statue will be eight feet in height, of bronze, and its erection in front of Christ Church, where the great lamp now stands, is spoken of.

Liverpool.—St. George's Hall is to be opened at last. The commission for holding the assizes will be opened on 6th December, and the committee of the council have resolved that they shall be held in the new courts at St. George's Hall, which are to be prepared forthwith for occupation.

Derby.—All Saints' Schools, designed by Mr. Stevens, architect, have been completed. They have an elevation of two stories to Walker-lane, with an entrance at either extremity—one for boys, the other for girls; the school-rooms for the latter being on the upper floor, the boys on the under. The girls' large school-room is 45 feet by 25 feet, with proportionate height: besides this there is a class-room 15 feet by 15 feet 9 inches, and lavatories, cloak-room, &c. On the lower floor, the boys' chief school-room is 40 feet long by 24 feet wide, and is also furnished with subsidiary accommodation. At the back of the boys' school, with which it forms a figure like the leg of letter T, is a hall 42 feet 6 inches long by 25 feet in breadth, also with subsidiary chambers. This is to be used as an infant school. The building is ventilated and heated. The schools are calculated to accommodate upwards of 500 children and adults. On the 20th ult. they were formally opened.

Stockton.—An Act of Parliament is to be applied for to carry out some improvements here, comprising the formation of a dock, breakwater, and various river cuts, and the widening of the river channel.

Dumfries.—The Lochrutton waterworks, according to the local *Courier*, are now approaching completion. Two of the filtering tanks have been finished, and the other two only require to be covered with the upper layer of sand. The two completed filters are said to work well. Workmen are busy in all parts of the town putting service pipes into houses, and the demand for these appears to be general and extensive. Water should be at once supplied in different parts of the town for the use of the poor.

Shetland, Orkney, Skye, &c.—The Northern Lighthouse Commissioners have resolved to erect a lighthouse on the Outskerries of Whal-

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